

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Willie Krawitz on 26 March 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

In claim 1, line 2, change "head" to ---brush---, after "bristles" insert ---slidably attached via sliding engagement means to a head---, before "neck" insert ---hollow--- and change "portion and" to ---portion supporting the head and extending from the head to---,
line 5, after "elongate," insert ---one piece, ---,
line 6, delete "and extending from", after "motor" insert ---at one end and extending--- and change "neck" to ---head---,
line 7, delete "portion",
line 9, change "at" to ---within--- and change "bristles" to ---brush---,
line 12, after "bearing" insert ---in the head--- and after "weight" insert ---wherein the shaft is unsupported, free from contact, between its ends---,
line 14, change "neck and weight provide" to ---and neck portion are provided---,
line 15, change "motor" to ---weight---.

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Cancel claim 6.

Cancel claim 7.

In claim 8, line 1, change “7” to ---1---.

In claim 9, line 1, change “7” to ---1---.

In claim 10, line 1, after “neck” insert ---portion---.

In claim 11, line 2, after “neck” insert ---portion---.

Cancel claim 12.

In claim 13, line 2, delete “10,000 cpm-”.

In claim 14, line 2, delete “8,000 cpm-”.

In claim 15, line 2, delete “-17,500 cpm”.

Cancel claims 16.

In claim 17, line 1, change “the” to ---an--- and change “powered” to ---power---,
line 2, change “comprises” to ---comprised of--- and after “battery” insert ---is provided in said
handle---.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention sets forth a unique electrically powered toothbrush. In particular, one where an eccentric weight is mounted on an elongated, one piece shaft within a head of the toothbrush. The one piece shaft extends unsupported, free from contact between its ends, from a flexible coupling on a motor in a handle of the toothbrush through a hollow neck portion to an anchored bearing within the head. The weight is provided within the head adjacent a removable brush with bristles provided on the head. The head and neck portion are set forth as having a resonant frequency of vibration approximately matched to the rotational speed of the weight. The prior art does not disclose such a one piece drive shaft arranged in combination as claimed with the head and neck portion resonant frequency set as such.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary K. Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-1274. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gary K Graham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3723